

SUBSTANCE ABUSE TREATMENT FACT SHEET

Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Bureau of Substance Abuse Services

February, 2002

This fact sheet contains information about the impact of alcohol and other drug use in the Fifth Middlesex Representative District. Admission data were reported to the Bureau of Substance Abuse Services (BSAS) Substance Abuse Management Information System in FY 2001.

Residents of Fifth Middlesex Representative District

Treatment Admissions:

In FY 2001, there were 120,687 admissions to licensed substance abuse treatment services in all of Massachusetts. Of these, 0.2% (275) reside in the Fifth Middlesex Representative District. Due to budget cuts in FY 2002, BSAS estimates that 19% (52) of Fifth Middlesex Representative District residents will not be able to access treatment services. **Please note that these statistics represent only individual admissions, and represent a figure lower than the actual number of constituents in need of treatment services.**

- In FY 2001, 63.4% of admissions from the Fifth Middlesex Representative District were male and 36.6% were female.
- Over 53.3% of admissions were between the ages of 30-49.
- 81.9% of admissions were white non-Latino, 7.9% were black non-Latino, 4.7% were Latino, 1.1% were Asians, and 4.4% were other racial categories.
- 68.5% of those admitted to treatment were never married, 9.4% were married, and 16.3% reported not to be married now.
- 23.2% of admissions had less than high school education, 54.4% completed high school, and 22.5% had more than high school education.
- 42.0% of those admitted to treatment were employed.
- 16.3% of those admitted were homeless.
- 9.1% of admissions had prior mental health treatment.

Substances Used in Past Year:

Upon entering treatment, each client is asked to report ALL substances used in the past year (12 months) prior to admission. Admissions frequently report using more than one substance within the year. The use of more than one psychoactive substance, such as alcohol and marijuana, is referred to as 'polydrug' or 'polysubstance' use. For example, individuals who use cocaine, crack and heroin also may report the use of either alcohol and/or marijuana.

- Table 1 shows ALL substances which clients reported using in the year prior to admission, including the prevalence of injection drug use (IDU) in the Fifth Middlesex Representative District. Injection drug users (or IDU's) are individuals who use a needle to ingest cocaine, crack, heroin or another drug to get high.

Table 1 Annual Admissions by Substance Used FY 1995 – FY 2001							
Fifth Middlesex Representative District							
	Total	Alcohol	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack	Heroin	IDU
FY '95	217	196	55	51	27	31	19
FY '96	187	167	53	42	24	31	23
FY '97	269	232	85	63	30	43	25
FY '98	304	260	95	64	38	49	27
FY '99	317	267	103	54	30	55	40
FY '00	297	232	104	67	29	56	41
FY '01	275	226	95	76	41	59	35

- Since dropping in FY 1996, residents of Fifth Middlesex Representative District reported an increase across all the drug categories.
- Between FY 1995 and FY 2001, admissions reporting heroin use nearly doubled, and, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and crack use increased by 15%, 72%, 49% and 51%, respectively.

Primary Substance of Use:

At admission clients also identify a “primary drug” of use which is the substance currently causing them the most problems.

- Table 2 compares the proportional distribution of primary drugs in Massachusetts with that for the Fifth Middlesex Representative District.

Table 2 Primary Drug by District and State FY 2001					
	Alcohol	Heroin	Marijuana	Cocaine	Crack
District	55.1 %	17.4%	10.9%	6.2%	6.5%
State	46.5%	35.9%	6.5%	3.9%	3.4%

- While heroin as a primary drug of use in your Representative District was lower than the State average, alcohol, marijuana, cocaine and crack was higher within your District.